

The President's Daily Brief

27 October 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 October 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists apparently are abandoning their month-long military campaign in South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province and along the Cambodian border. (Page 1)

South Vietnam

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(Page 2)

Cambodia

(Page 3)

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NATO's Eurogroup has made some progress toward more extensive defense cooperation. (Page 4)

Taipei has decided to try and preserve its membership in specialized agencies of the UN. (Page 5)

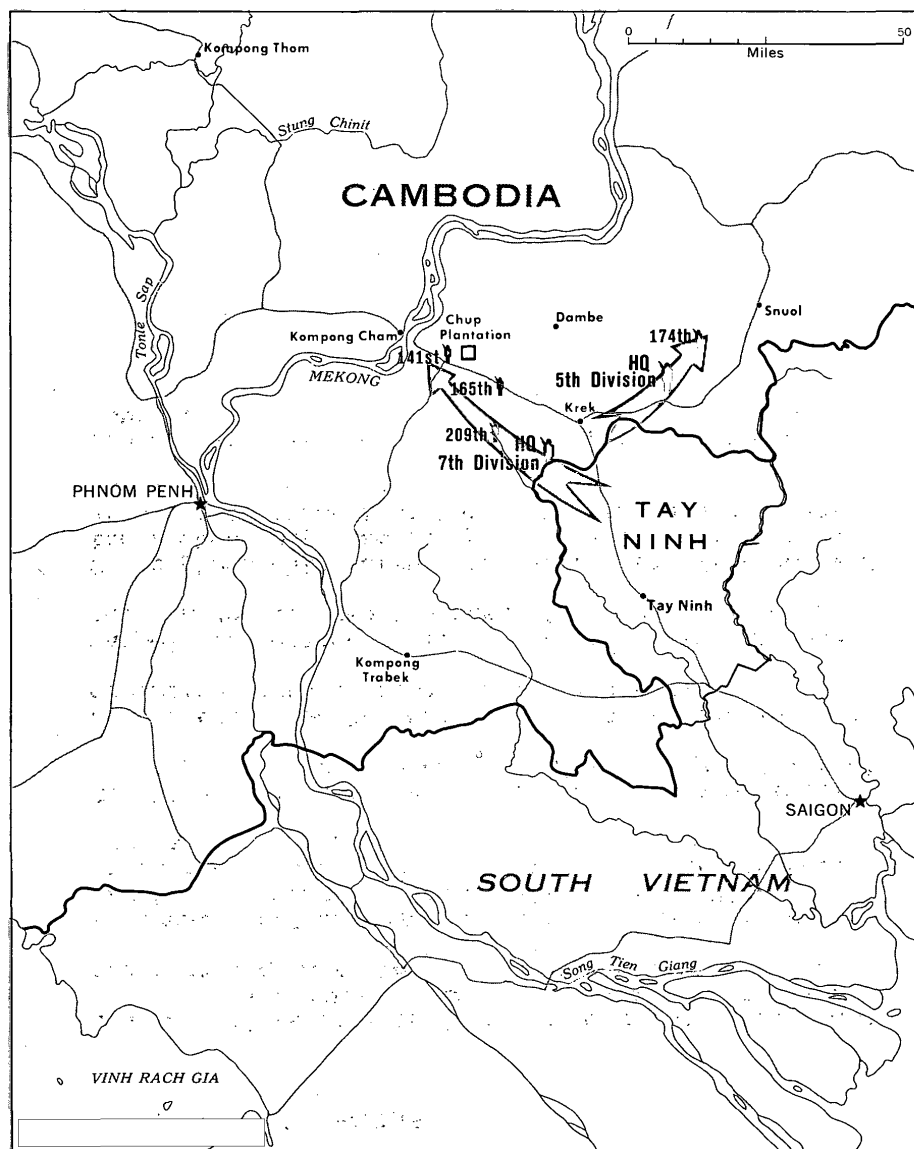
The typhoon which struck northern South Vietnam over the weekend may also delay the start of dry-season supply deliveries from North Vietnam into the Laos panhandle. (Page 5)

Soviet

Cuba. (Page 5)

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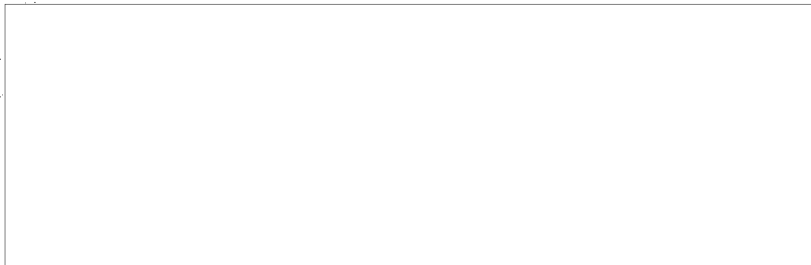
VIETNAM-CAMBODIA

Although scattered fighting continues in South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province and along the Cambodian border, recent direction-finding indicates that major components of the Communist 7th Division, including its three subordinate regiments, have withdrawn toward base areas near the Chup rubber plantation. In addition, the headquarters of the 5th Division, along with its 174th Regiment, have left the vicinity of Krek.

The Communists apparently are abandoning their month-long military campaign in this area. Intercepts and captured documents indicate that the objective was to tie down Saigon's forces in northwestern Military Region 3 and thereby to prevent the South Vietnamese Army from staging a major push against Communist base areas in Cambodia. Saigon's forces, supported by massive US bombing, blunted the Communist offensive and apparently inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

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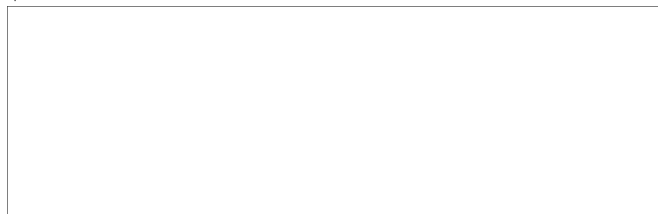
SOUTH VIETNAM



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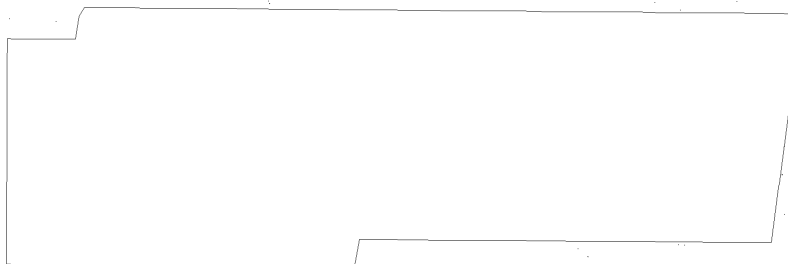
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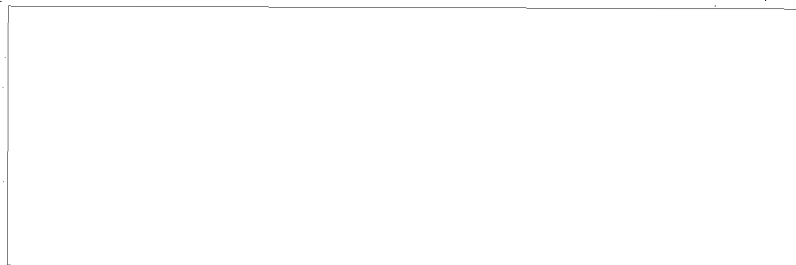
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CAMBODIA



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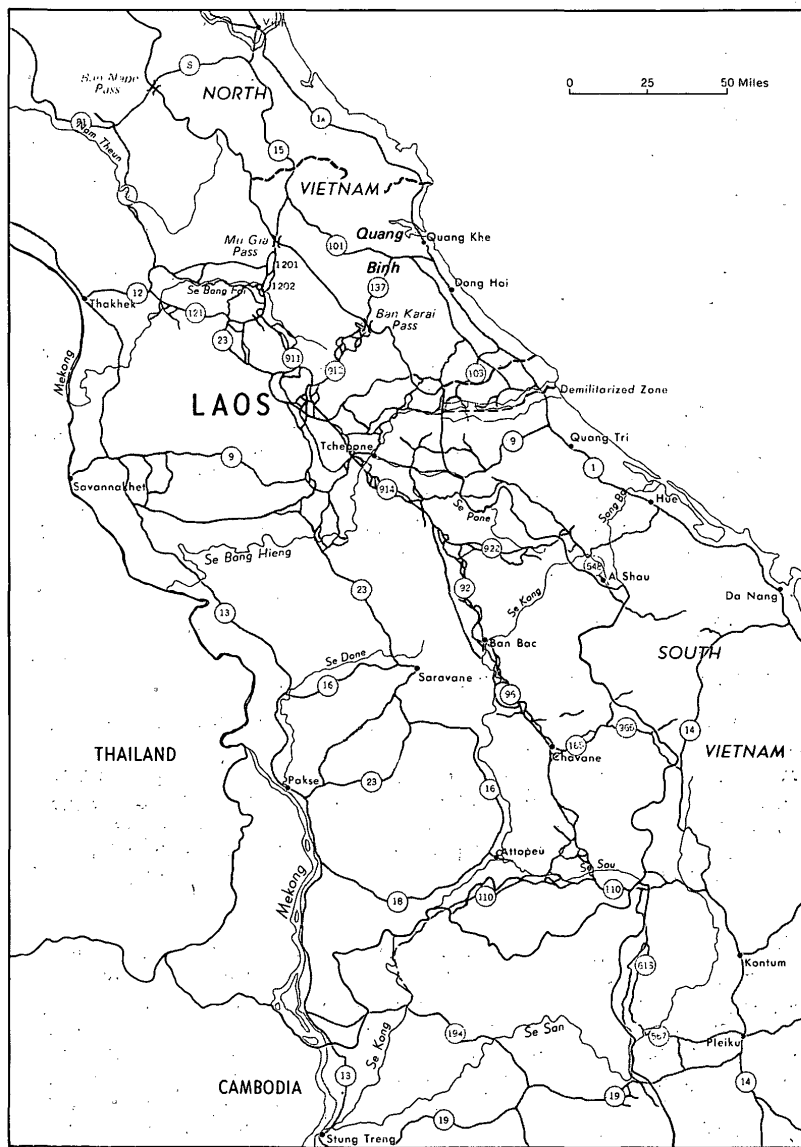
NATO

The members of NATO's Eurogroup--the UK and all the continental members except France and Portugal--have made some progress at the working level on a variety of potential joint efforts in the field of defense support. The groups have been studying prospects for cooperation in military training, arms planning, logistics, standardization of medical supplies, and storage facilities.

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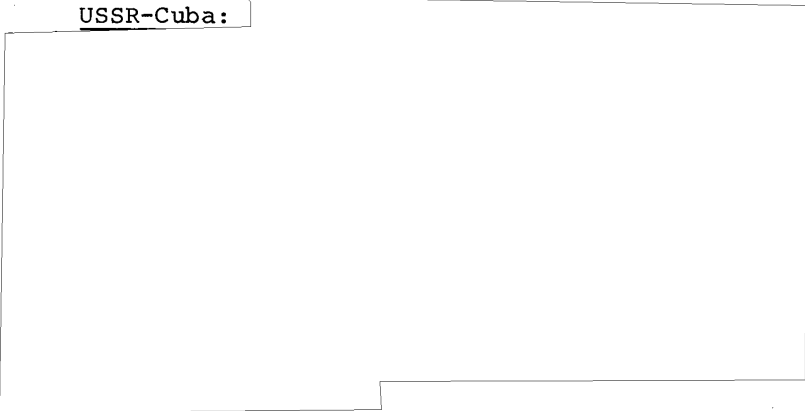
NOTES

Nationalist China: The Nationalist delegation at the UN has informed US officials that Taipei's withdrawal applies only to the UN itself and not to its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency. Taipei has decided in principle to attempt to preserve its membership in these agencies, but the wide margin of the vote on Monday indicates that it has little chance of success. Peking has made it clear that it will not enter the UN while Taipei remains a member of any of its affiliated bodies. Although Peking is already considering sending a delegation to New York, it is unlikely to do so before Taipei's position is resolved.

Indochina: The typhoon which caused heavy damage in the northernmost part of South Vietnam over the weekend may also delay the start of dry-season supply deliveries from North Vietnam into the Laos panhandle. High winds and local flooding in Quang Binh Province disrupted land-line communications, damaged storage areas, and mired roads leading to the Mu Gia and Ban Karai passes. Similar storms last year delayed large-scale movement of supplies until late November. Roads in the panhandle are much improved this year, however, and the Communists can repair them quickly after the rains stop.

Belgium: Belgium has finally decided what to do with information provided by Anatoly Tchegotarev, the Soviet trade mission employee who defected recently. The government, reluctant to generate the publicity attending a similar case in the UK, quietly told Soviet Ambassador Molotchkov that ten Soviet representatives would have to be barred from Belgium by 1 November or be declared persona non grata. (Only five of the ten are now in the country.) Fifteen other Soviets must leave within a year.

USSR-Cuba:



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